



T +33(0)390214895

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## Congress delegation visit to Portugal

Strasbourg, 6 September 2013 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe carried out a post-monitoring visit to Portugal on 6 September 2013. Congress Rapporteurs Jos Wienen (The Netherlands, EPP/CCE) and Devrim Çukur (Turkey, SOC) discussed the follow-up to the Congress Recommendation 323 (2012) on local and regional democracy in this country.

In particular, the rapporteurs welcomed a very positive dialogue with the Portuguese Secretary of State of Local Administration, Antonio Leitão Amaro who ensured his commitment to implementing Congress recommendations. "We are currently working hard in this direction, I am willing to keep and to deepen this interaction with the Congress of the Council of Europe" he said.

"I am confident that concrete steps toward the implementation of Congress recommendations will be taken", stated Devrim Cukur after the visit.

A working meeting involving representatives of the Secretariat of State of Local Administration, of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP) as well as experts, will take place by the end of 2013 to discuss the ways to improve consultations of local authorities notably on financial issues. Representatives of the Ministry of Finances will be invited to participate in this meeting.

In addition, the Secretary of State agreed to address Congress Session in October 2014 to present the recent developments in this respect.

The Congress delegation also met the President of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities, Fernando Ruas, as well as members of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities and the Portuguese delegation to the Congress.

"The meetings we had today reflect the importance of building a bridge between national authorities and the Congress if we want a real follow up to our action. The outcomes of these meetings are a good example of what post monitoring should lead to, namely to concrete steps towards ensuring the effectiveness of our recommendations, based on a political multilevel dialogue" concluded Jos Wienen.

### Contact on the spot:

Stéphanie Poiré, Secretariat of the Congress, +33 (0)6 63 55 07 10

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The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)  
Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)